Resources for Implementing the Common Core Standards
for Literacy in Science

The Common Core's inclusion of standards for literacy in secondary science classrooms is backed by extensive research establishing the need for college and career ready students to be proficient in reading complex informational texts independently in a variety of content areas. The Common Core asks for science teachers to infuse opportunities for students to engage with discipline-specific complex texts and support students in grounding their writing and discussions in evidence based on these texts.

Finding Complex Texts

The Common Core Standards require students to read and comprehend scientific texts that are appropriately complex for their grade band. Below is a list of websites that contain text resources.

National Digital Science Library - http://nsdl.org/browse/collections/All
   Features: The NSDL does offers access to text resources, focusing on the sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) content.

National Geographic for Kids - http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/
   Features: The kids' version of National Geographic. For texts, go to the news section of the site. *Lexile Range: 1050-1150*

Natural Inquirer- http://www.naturalinquirer.org/
   Features: A school science journal with Common Core Standards alignment to lessons and links to other helpful web resources.

New York Online Virtual Electronic Library - http://www.novelnewyork.org/
   Features: Access public, school, academic and specialty libraries throughout NY State. Full text of hundreds of journals, newspapers, encyclopedias, business guides and other references.

Popsci - http://www.popsci.com/archives
   Features: View the 140-year archive of science and technology resources. Categories include the future of the environment, health and energy.

Science.gov - http://www.science.gov/index.html
   Features: Search over 55 databases and 2100 websites from 13 federal agencies, offering authoritative U.S. government science information**.** Reports include agencies' research and development results and data sets.

Science News - http://www.sciencenews.org/
   Features: This is the adult version of Science News for Kids, also coming from Society for Science and the Public. *Lexile Range: 1050-1260*

Science News for Kids - http://www.sciencenewsforkids.org
   Features: A publication by the Society for Science and the Public. *Lexile Range : 870-1100*

Science, New York Times - http://www.nytimes.com/pages/science/index.html
   Features: Science section of the New York Times. *Lexile Range: 1150-1350*

The Learning Network - http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/
   Features: Lesson plan ideas based on current New York Times content.

Use Advanced Search Functions

Some websites allow you to limit your search by one or more of the following:
- *Select Common Core Standards*
- *Publication Name*
- *Lexile range*

Analyze Text Complexity

After locating a text, conduct a text complexity analysis to determine if the text is appropriate for your students and how you can best support them in accessing it.

On the Common Core Library you can watch a short video about text complexity and then use the text analysis protocol and rubrics to analyze the complexity of any text. (schools.nyc.gov/Academics/ CommonCoreLibrary)

Consider Text Sufficiency

- *Do the text(s) allow students to adequately answer the question(s) being asked?*
- *Is there enough textual evidence to back up claims or provide supporting details?*

Finding Instructional Strategies

Teacher Actions and Complex Texts
> *Features:* A seven step framework for supporting students through complex texts.
> http://textproject.org/assets/text-matters/Text-Matters_7-Actions-Text-Complexity.pdf

Helping All Students Become Independent Readers
> *Features:* An article on modeling reading strategies and a comparison of the cognitive process for struggling and independent readers through the reading process.
> http://teachingasleadership.org/sites/default/files/Related-Readings/SL_Ch3_2011.pdf **

Achieve the Core's Guide to Creating Text-Dependent Questions for Close Analytic Reading
> *Features:* Strategies for designing effective text-dependent questions.
> http://www.achievethecore.org/steal-these-tools/text-dependent-questions

Citing Textual Evidence
> *Features:* A short video exploring strategies for supporting student use of evidence in written responses.
> https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/teaching-about-textual-evidence

**Link only accessible on a PC not a Mac

Finding NYC and NYS Resources
Common Core Library - schools.nyc.gov/Academics/CommonCoreLibrary
The Common Core Library is a website created and managed by the NYC Department of Education that provides information on the Common Core as well as resources for students, teachers, parents and communities to help understand and engage with the implementation of the Common Core Standards.

- Learn about the Common Core Standards themselves and the instructional shifts needed in literacy.
- Explore the CCLS-aligned Tasks embedded in a unit of study in various content areas.

EngageNY - http://engageny.org
New York State's Resource Library to Support CCLS Implementation

- Find a variety of resources to help support the implementation of the CCLS in all content areas.
- Access the video library to learn more about CCLS.

Take a Deeper Dive into Literacy Research

- Baer, T., Nourie, B., (1993). Strategies for teaching reading in the content areas. *The Clearing House*, 67 (2), 121-122.
- Conley, M. (2008). Cognitive strategy instruction for adolescents: What we know about the promise, what we don't know about the potential. *Harvard Educational Review*, 78 (1), 84-106.
- Giles, C., Wang, Y., Smith, J., & Johnson, D., (2013). "I'm no longer just teaching history." Professional development for teaching Common Core State Standards for literacy in social studies. Middle School Journal, Jan, 34-43.
- Reisman, A., Winebury, S., (2012). "Text Complexity" in the History Classroom: Teaching to and Beyond the Common Core. *Social Studies Review,* 24-29.
- Shanahan, T., Shanahan, C. (2008). Teaching Disciplinary Literacy to Adolescents. *Harvard Educational Review, 78, 40-59.*